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The CIA and the White House

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President Johnson and his political speech writers apparently aren't reading or don't believe the confidential reports on the worsening world conditions that the Central Intelligence Agency is sending to the White House.

While the President is exposing the nation's voters to a rosy glow of optimism in his campaign speeches, CIA Director John McCone is flooding the White House with reports about the growth of socialist, neutralist, and pro-Communist governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

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McCone, who is finding it harder and harder to privately brief President Johnson as he did the late President Kennedy, is sending these "warnings" through the regular channels and his aides say that he has no idea whether they are getting to the President.

Prepared by the CIA's board of national estimates for McCone's transmission to the President and members of the National Security Council, one of these estimates warned:

"Many new nations have adopted strongly socialist methods; some have held to constitutional methods with only great

difficulty and others have abandoned them; some have thrown out bloody dictators and some have acquired them. Most profess some form of neutralism."

This CIA estimate stressed, "The new European attitudes have given a somewhat greater respectability to the Communist states of Eastern Europe and to the Marxist parties of the West."

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It pointed out that, "There has been a realization that it was not necessary to nationalize industry and finance in order to achieve the objectives of socialism, and that much the same ends could be achieved through welfare programs and through proper use of the mechanisms of modern fiscal and monetary systems."

The country-by-country analysis of CIA Director McCone and his intelligence experts tells of the growing troubles facing pro-U.S. governments throughout the world as well as the newly emerging nations.

"The monarchies in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Libya are making, in varying degrees, some efforts to modernize," the CIA analysis states, "but even in the case of the most energetic of these,

namely Jordan, there is serious doubt that the monarchy itself will not in time be swept away by the forces it is releasing and encouraging."

According to these CIA experts' findings, "Many situations such as those in Algeria, the Congo, and the Horn of Africa are very fragile" and could explode at any time.

"Nkrumah is an unstable man who has created and will create considerable instability in West Africa," the intelligence experts report. "Even nations led by mature and able leaders, such as Nigeria and Senegal, have deep divisions."

The royal regimes of Iran and Afghanistan have become, at their ruler's initiatives, instruments of revolution.

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"The more dramatic case is that of Iran, where the shah has turned against both the upper and middle classes, made common cause with the peasants, and begun large-scale land and political reform," another CIA estimate reveals.

The situation in Afghanistan also represents a small tinder box.

The CIA estimate states, "The royal initiative has been less dramatic and more deliberate in Afghanistan. Steps toward more rapid modernization and toward political reform are being taken cautiously and there are a number of difficulties to be surmounted. As the pace of change accelerates so will the pressures for its continuance; it is still too early to determine whether the King will have the courage to go ahead when the going gets harder."

Another CIA estimate notes, "Egypt and Indonesia have very substantially improved their military capabilities through the acquisition of large amounts of Soviet arms."